

basis for a two-year period and during that two-year period there would be some work taken to see how that school could be better organized and it would come under the governance of someone other than the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska. As you may recall, that bill passed this Legislature and then a substantial part of the funding was vetoed by the Governor's office. Now another bill has been introduced that deals with essentially the same subject matter, that being the reorganization of the school, the restructuring of it and a new impetus of funding for it. When I reviewed this matter I just assumed that that bill would be coming again before our Education Committee. We had heard that last year. We were familiar with the school. We were familiar with the testimony on that particular issue. But I discovered that this had been referenced to the Appropriations Committee and I am not sure what the reason for that is. My feeling is that just as a matter of past precedent that this is particularly an educational matter since it does talk about how that school will be organized and how it will be continued. So I have made the motion to rerefer it to the Education Committee. I might add that I have visited with some of the senators on the referencing committee to just inquire why this bill had not been referred to our Education Committee as it had been last year and the two members that I talked to said they didn't know of any reason and that the topic had really not been discussed at all and, in fact, they were unaware of why exactly it had been designated to the Appropriations Committee. And so, for that reason, I think it is entirely appropriate that it go back to our Education Committee. As I said, we are the most familiar with the particular subject matter of that bill. We were the ones that advanced it out of committee. Members of that committee were the ones who had urged the passage of that bill last year, and members of this committee were also the ones that urged the unsuccessful override of the Governor's veto. So I think it is entirely appropriate that it be before the Education Committee and not the Appropriations Committee. And I would urge the body's support on this motion to rerefer. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair recognizes the Chairman of the Education Committee, Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I would like, first of all, to make a couple of points before I start to speak. Number one, this is a motion that Senator McFarland came to me yesterday indicating that he had seen that